

PUBLIC EDUCATION BULLETIN

VOLUME 1

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, MARCH, 1934

NUMBER 6

A LEGISLATIVE MESSAGE

1833 - 34

UNIVERSAL EDUCATION, if it were practicable to enforce it everywhere, would operate as a powerful check upon vice, and would do more to diminish the black catalogue of crimes, so generally prevalent, than any other measure, whether for prevention or punishment, that has hitherto been devised; in this State, it is not only considered as being entirely practicable, but is enjoined by the constitution as a solemn duty * * *

The Legislature has the authority of the Constitution to act efficiently and without control in this matter. And "to provide by law, for the establishment of schools throughout the State, in such manner that the poor may be taught gratis," is one of the public measures to which I feel it to be my duty now to call your attention, and most solemnly to press upon your consideration.

Our apathy and indifference, in reference to this subject, becomes the more conspicuous, when we reflect, that whilst we are expending millions for the improvement of the physical condition of the State, we have not hitherto appropriated a single dollar, that is available, for the intellectual improvement of its youth, which in a moral and political point of view, is of tenfold more consequence, either as respects the moral influence of the State or its political power and safety * * *

It is time, fellow-citizens, that the character of our State should be redeemed from the state of supineness and indifference under which its most important interests, the education of its citizens, have so long been languishing, and that a system should be arranged that would ensure * * * an adequate number of schools to be established throughout the State * * *



PROCLAMATION

1934

WHEREAS, April 1, 1934, marks the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Common Schools Law of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, This occasion provides an opportunity for our citizens to familiarize themselves with the changes and progress during a century of advancement in public education, and to pay tribute to those who founded our system of public education, and to those who have carried on the work of the founders; and

WHEREAS, This law has so provided the base upon which our great system of public instruction is built:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GIFFORD PINCHOT, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to the provisions of a Joint Resolution of the General Assembly approved and signed by me on May 11, 1931, do hereby designate and proclaim the week beginning Sunday, April 1, 1934, as PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION WEEK, and call upon the school authorities, teachers, school children, and the people of the State to display the United States Flag and the Pennsylvania Flag during EDUCATION WEEK in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Common Schools Law; and I call upon the people of the Commonwealth,

through their various organizations and institutions, to give appropriate recognition to the contribution which public education has made to the moral, social, civic, and commercial life of the Commonwealth, to the end that all shall appreciate the true value of our free public schools as the real basis of a competent and lasting citizenship.

George

Gifford Pinchot

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

THE HISTORY of public education in Pennsylvania dates back to the first settlers. In the early days of our Commonwealth Penn's frame of Government definitely considered education as a public function. The Provincial Council of 251 years ago enacted legislation "to the end that poor as well as rich may be instructed in good and commendable learning, which is to be preferred before wealth."

The ground-work of a sound system of education was firmly established in these early days and led finally to the passing of the Common Schools Law in 1834. Subsequent attacks on the free public school system reenforced the determination of the people to insure an education for all the boys and girls of the Commonwealth. The Constitution of 1873 made mandatory a system of public education wherein all of the children above the age of six years might be educated.

In the one hundred years which are just being completed, Pennsylvania has rounded out a significant milestone in her educational history. Pennsylvania's Educational Charter, which has been adopted by the school people of the State, sets forth a bill of rights for the development of education for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Changing social and economic conditions make necessary changes in the organization and administration of education if a square deal is to be guaranteed to all. There are four problems which are particularly significant at the present time:

1. Efficient administration of schools requires a unit sufficiently large to support a meaningful educational program.

2. Good schools cannot be had without good teachers. It is extremely important that proper personnel be selected for training, be trained, placed, guided, and adequately protected in their rights.

3. A square deal can be had only when there can be an equalization of support which will remove the heavy burden from real estate and insure to each community in the State at least a minimum program of education.

4. Instruction in the school must be vitalized and courses and classes offered which will prepare boys and girls to assume their responsibilities as citizens, giving them civic, social and vocational competency.

With these steps accomplished the second century of free public education will be launched into a career of public service far beyond the fondest hopes of its founders.

In this centennial celebration let us pay fitting tribute to the memory of George Wolf, "The Father of Free Public Schools in Pennsylvania;" to Thaddeus Stevens, whose noble defense saved the school law at a critical time; to Samuel Breck, chairman of the legislative committee charged with drawing up the law of 1834; to Thomas Burrowes, early Superintendent of Common Schools, and to the thousands of faithful teachers, statesmen and citizens who have made public education a successful part of the life of the Commonwealth.

James N. Rule
Superintendent of Public Instruction

EDUCATION'S HONOR ROLL

These thirty-five names of former educators and statesmen distinguished for outstanding contributions to education within the Commonwealth, are carved in letters more than two feet high on the frieze of the Education Building at Harrisburg.



George Wolf

ANDREW G. CURTIN
JOHN DICKINSON
CHRISTOPHER DOCK
STEPHEN C. FOSTER
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
STEPHEN GIRARD
SAMUEL HAMILTON
FRANCIS A. MARCH
JOHN McMILLAN



Thaddeus Stevens

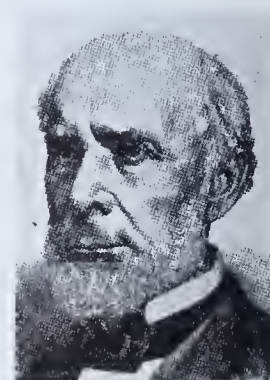
NATHAN C. SCHAEFFER
EDGAR FAHS SMITH
WILLIAM SMITH
THADDEUS STEVENS
WILLIAM TENNENT
BENJAMIN WEST
JAMES P. WICKERSHAM
GEORGE WOLF

GEORGE W. ATHERTON
JOHN BARTRAM
J. GEORGE BECHT
ANTHONY BENEZET
JOHN A. BRASHEAR
SAMUEL BRECK
THOMAS H. BURROWES
ANDREW CARNEGIE
RUSSELL H. CONWELL



Samuel Breck

LLOYD MIFFLIN
S. WEIR MITCHELL
ETHELBERT NEVIN
FRANCIS PASTORIUS
WILLIAM PENN
JOSEPH PENNEL
JOSEPH PRIESTLEY
JOSEPH T. ROTHROCK
BENJAMIN RUSH



Thomas H. Burrowes

CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

To OPEN general observance of the Public School Centennial, the Department of Public Instruction will sponsor special programs in the Forum of the Education Building at Harrisburg on Tuesday evening, April 3, Wednesday morning, afternoon and evening, April 4. In presentation of the two evening programs the Department will have the able cooperation of teachers and students of the State Teachers College at Shippensburg. The program is designed to present such features as will recall events and practices relating to the early history of public education and to demonstrate the advantages of the present day public education system. Staging of the Legislative Session of 1835 and presentation of a school session of one hundred years ago, together with the old fashioned spelling bee and singing school session, will provide desirable historical atmosphere; actual demonstration of the results obtained in the Schools of Today will tend to show the ultimate attainments of one hundred years of public education.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

DURING PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION WEEK
APRIL 1-7, 1934

TUESDAY, APRIL 3—THE FORUM

7:45 P. M.—Senator Warren R. Roberts, *Presiding*

GREETINGS Gifford Pinchot
Governor of the Commonwealth

ADDRESS James N. Rule
Superintendent of Public Instruction

DRAMATIZATION Shippensburg State Teachers College
I. Signing of the Free School Act
II. Defense of the Free School Act

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4—THE FORUM

10:00 A. M.—State Championship Spelling Bee

2:00 P. M.—Old-fashioned Singing School Session

3:00 P. M.—Final Spelling Bee Session

7:45 P. M.—Dramatization and Demonstrations:
Shippensburg State Teachers College

I. A School Session of One Hundred Years Ago

II. Schools of Today

ANNIVERSARY SIDELIGHTS

BROADCASTING of parts of the Centennial program in the Forum has been arranged with WHP, Harrisburg, 1430 kilocycles, which has a service range of between fifty and seventy-five miles on its day-time broadcast power. The tentative schedule includes broadcasting of Tuesday evening's program from 7:45 to 8:15; Wednesday morning's spelling bee session from 11:45 to 12:15; old-fashioned singing school between 2:15 and 2:30 Wednesday afternoon; and the closing session of the spelling bee from 3:00 or 3:30 to the end of the event, probably 4:30. It is expected that more than forty counties will be represented in the spelling match, making it necessary to advance the hour of opening the morning session to ten o'clock.

PLATFORM guests at the opening of the centennial celebration in Harrisburg will include the two living former Superintendents of Public Instruction, Dr. David J. Waller and Dr. Francis B. Haas, both of Bloomsburg. They, with other platform guests, will be introduced by Superintendent James N. Rule, in the course of his address in which he will review the outstanding events in the development of public education in Pennsylvania.

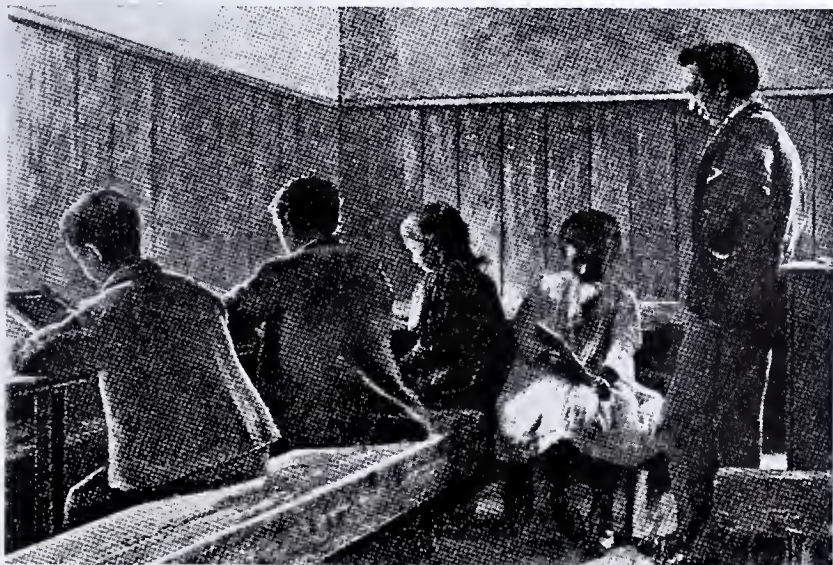
THE old-fashioned singing school scheduled for two o'clock Wednesday afternoon will be conducted by Dr. Johann Blose of Lebanon. He is a music teacher of the old school and well known in years gone by, through conducting singing schools in rural communities of western Pennsylvania. This feature should prove to be one of the outstanding events of the entire program.

NO admission is to be charged for any of the events on the Centennial program in the Forum. Each session will be open to the public, and judging by the interest being displayed in the entire program it will be advisable for all to come early.

SPRING Arbor and Bird Days will be observed in Pennsylvania on Friday, April 13 and Friday, April 27. Each school should make a special effort to observe one of these days. It is suggested that it may be made a part of the school's centennial program.

STATE-WIDE observance of the Public School Centennial will close with the annual Education Congress in Harrisburg on October 10 and 11. This occasion will be featured by a Citizens Conference on Education. Reserve the date and plan now to attend.

YEARS AGO This is the type of school that was common a century ago. Note that all desks faced the walls. Taken from an old print.



OLD SCHOOL Furnishings collected by the State Museum. Director Hoban (seated) U. S. Commissioner of Education Zook, and Supt. Rule inspect it.





THE FORUM of the Education Building where Observance of Pennsylvania's Public School Centennial will take place Tuesday evening, April 3, and all day Wednesday, April 4, 1934.

EDUCATION

THESE QUOTATIONS ARE CARVED OVER DOORWAYS OF THE EDUCATION BUILDING AT HARRISBURG

LET OUR SCHOOLS TEACH THE NOBILITY OF LABOR AND THE BEAUTY OF HUMAN SERVICE—*Peter Cooper*
 NO MAN CAN LEAVE A RICHER LEGACY TO THE WORLD THAN A WELL EDUCATED FAMILY—*Thomas Scott*
 IGNORANCE IS THE CURSE OF GOD. KNOWLEDGE THE WING WHEREWITH WE FLY TO HEAVEN—*Shakespeare*
 THE TEACHER, WHETHER MOTHER, PRIEST OR SCHOOLMASTER, IS THE REAL MAKER OF HISTORY
 —*H. G. Wells*
 LEARN SOME USEFUL ART THAT YOU MAY BE INDEPENDENT OF THE CAPRICE OF FORTUNE—*Cato*
 EDUCATION FOR ALL THE PEOPLE IS AMERICA'S NOBLEST CONTRIBUTION TO CIVILIZATION
 HE WHO WILL NOT ANSWER TO THE RUDDER MUST ANSWER TO THE ROCK
 CULTURE IS THE POWER OF APPRECIATING LIFE AND MAKING LIFE WORTH APPRECIATING
 THE WORLD IS UPHELD BY THE VERACITY OF GOOD MEN. THEY MAKE THE EARTH WHOLESOME
 DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT CAN BE PREDICATED ONLY BY UNIVERSAL EDUCATION
 IT IS NOT IN IGNORANCE BUT IN ENLIGHTENMENT THAT CONTENTMENT WILL BE FOUND

(Architects are unable to provide sources for the quotations listed here without credit. If anyone can supply the information please address the Editor)

The large illustration on the first page shows the Education Building in the Capitol Group at Harrisburg; the small illustration is from an oil painting of an eight-sided school house at Alexandria, 1856

OLD LANDMARK Eight-sided school house built in 1775 still stands near Oxford Valley, Bucks County.

WOLF ACADEMY Governor Wolf attended and later taught in this building near Bath, Northampton County.

